



MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2020

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512

Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUszMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

1. ***Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair- Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. ***Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Dr. Larry Weiss
Barbara Korosa
Jennifer McMenemy
James Doyle
Linda Hardie

Rick Sorensen
Deborah Whitehouse
Sarah Deardorff
Donna Clontz

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

* Mark Miranda

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Abby Willrich
Steve McBride

Sandra Vasquez
Herbert Kaplan (DA)

ADVISOR PRESENT

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ADVISOR (ABSENT)
Victoria Edmondson
Connie McMullen

3. ***Public Comment** –
No public comment.
4. ***Member Announcements** –
No member announcements.
5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 2, 2020 (For Possible Action)**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Deborah Whitehouse and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 4, 2020 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the minutes with correction on item 9 was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Presentation and discussion of the provisions of Nevada's Open Meeting Law and the provisions of the Washoe County code governing the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board – Herbert B. Kaplan, Deputy District Attorney

Herbert presented on open meeting law; all public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the open meeting law that board deliberations and board actions be conducted openly. The Senior Advisory Board is subject to open meeting law. It is required that the agenda for a meeting gets posted, and the agenda requires that there is a public comment period in the beginning and end of the meeting. If there is public comment, there cannot be deliberation on it; it would need to be an agenda item for a future meeting. Public comment is allowed for 3 minutes per person. Herbert advises to try and not have a quorum at functions because it opens the door to potential issues. If it does happen, no deliberation should be done. For board meetings, board members can participate via video call or phone call. Also, agenda items can be written better, it is something that can be worked on. It is important to know and discuss what is written on an agenda item. It is also important to not start the meeting earlier than the posted time. Deborah stated concern with restrictions to contact board members, Herbert stated that as long as there is not 6 or more members in the communication thread, it is ok and no agenda needs to be posted.

8. *Discussion regarding the review of the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board Bylaws

Herbert discussed the terms of office for board members according to the Bylaws. An example is that if Larry was appointed for a term and then he resigned, the new appointed person would continue Larry's term until it ended, this is the usual traditional term. At this point, the Bylaws don't provide this practice, Herbert inquired to the Board if there is an appetite to review the Bylaws to have traditional terms. Donna and Deborah would like to look into the Bylaws carefully. Herbert stated that he can be contacted if there are questions.

9. *Update and discussion on Washoe County issues and activities relating to seniors – Steve McBride, Division Director

Steve stated they have placed three tents for the congregate to go meals at the Reno site, this will help with weather conditions. A new public nurse supervisor has been hired, Daybreak is not open yet, but they do activities through Zoom.

10. *Presentation regarding available services and resources for seniors – Joti Bhakta, Human Services Supervisor

Joti stated she has Magali to present services (see attachment). Joti asked if there is any particular information that is needed. Larry stated that if someone has issues with food or something, they can ask staff. Donna stated she asked for this resource because they have started calling seniors and she wanted callers to be knowledgeable of what resources exist. The Community Resource guide that was provided was very helpful too. Donna also expressed her thanks for the Community Resource attachment. If there are future questions, they can email or call staff. Joti stated that people can email to the senior info email, it is monitored throughout the day. Joti can provide her cell phone number if there are any questions or concerns.

11.*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Donald Abbott

Donald stated they had their first Zoom meeting before Thanksgiving. The next meeting will be February 24th and they will have Dispatch Health do a presentation and also discuss the Friendly Phone Calls project and friendly livable communities. They will be picking a new chair and vice chair as well.

12. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz

Donna stated that because of COVID, they are on a project for reaching out to seniors in the community; she is working on an excel sheet for it. They are still continuing on the action plan, they have until May 2023 to work on the three areas which are communicating information, transportation, and affordable housing. Donna stated they lost a community member and he will be greatly missed.

13.*Report and discussion of Board of County Commissioners appointment approval to the Senior Advisory Board for Barbara Korosa and Deborah Whitehouse

Donna stated that when the Barbara and Deborah were approved, they looked at term expiration for Board members. Donna and Larry are on their 7th of their 8th year. Current and new Board members should think about leadership roles in the Board.

14. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recruiting a new Advisory Board Members for Districts 5 and two for Alternate (For Possible Action)

Abby stated she will be reaching out to Chris Ciarlo about posting on Next Door App. Deborah stated she has been talking to people she knows as well and there may be some that are interested.

15. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation regarding board members volunteering to make Friendly Visitor Calls on a regular basis to selected Home Delivered Meals clients (For Possible Action)

Donna stated that at the last couple of meetings they have talked about making friendly calls. It started with home delivered meals, but after the survey results, they got to extend it to Sierra Manor and congregate meal pick up locations. The five current volunteers have about 3 or 4 people to call. The callers are Deborah, Larry, Mark, Rick, and Donna. They have passed the word to the Sparks Senior Advisory Board and other people in the community that may be interested in volunteering to be callers. To become a caller, the person needs to become a Washoe County volunteer and Todd runs the process of background checks. At the moment, there are 25 seniors on the list.

Commissioner Jung commended the Board members for creating this project and showing the social and emotional support during this time.

16. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)

No update.

17. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Jung stated that there are big budget problems for the future and wishes someone pays attention because it's needed to advocate and not only focus on the vulnerable, but also on those who can potentially be institutionalized.

18. Agenda items for the next Board meeting

None.

19. *Public comment –

Larry stated that the Center for Healthy Aging and Aging and Disability Services Division is continuing to work on the Elders Count. It started in 2007, then again in 2009, and then 2013, but nothing since; good data will be coming with this.

Steve stated there is a COVID impact survey, which Sandra can provide. The County is intending on using the information for a recovery plan. It is something that everyone can relate to, it would be good to share with others. Linda stated she completed the survey.

20. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.